GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:108
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
CBI REPORT ON CRICKET MATCH FIXING
TARACHAND BHAGORA;VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the CBI report on cricket match fixing scandal;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made therein;

(c) the names of cricketers found guilty and the action proposed to be taken by the Government and BCCI against them;

(d) the views of certain other ministries as well as BCCI in this regard and action proposed in the matter;

(e) whether the Government have proposed any inquiry regarding sale of telecast rights of cricket matches by the BCCI during the last two years as pointed out by CBI;

(f) if so, the details thereof;
(g) whether the Government have contacted the South African Government in regard to match fixing;
(h) if so, the outcome thereof; and
(i) the concrete steps taken/being taken to check the recurrence of such episodes of match fixing in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) to (i): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 108 FOR 27.11.2000 REGARDING CBI REPORT ON CRICKET MATCH FIXI
DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA AND SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA

(a) to (d) & (i): CBI submitted its report on Match Fixing and related malpractices to the Government on 30.10.2000. CBI has indicted some bookies, punters, some foreign players and five Indian players viz; Ajay Sharma, Manoj Prabhakar, Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia and Dr. Ali Irani, Physiotherapist. CBI has also indicated in its report, after consulting various legal experts including the Solicitor General of India, that no criminal charges can be filed under cheating or the Gambling Act against anyone because of the nebulous position of the law in this regard, as well as the improbability of the investigating agency being able to obtain sufficient legal evidence. However, it is evaluating the probability of prosecuting Ajay Sharma and Azharuddin as public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act. A copy of the report has been sent to the concerned Ministries seeking their advice about the future course of action. The advice of the Ministry of Law has since been received and they have also expressed similar views about the likely prosecution of indicted persons as indicated in the CBI report. A copy of the report has also been given to BCCI for taking action against the indicted persons as per its rules and Code of Conduct. BCCI has suspended the indicted players for the time being and will submit its views on the report and decide the final action after examining the report by the end of November, 2000. The future course of action will be decided after getting advice from all concerned.

(e) & (f): CBI, in its report, indicated that the enquiry into the matter of grant of television rights was being dealt with separately. CBI has since informed that it has recently registered 5 cases against DD officials and others. 3 cases relate to cricket and two to Tennis.

(g) & (h): As per information received from Ministry of External Affairs, the South African authorities have been kept informed regarding the possible involvement of certain members of their cricket team in match fixing in conformity with the close and cordial relations between the two countries. The South African Government has reaffirmed their decision to abide by the results of the due process of law in this case.